

procedure is but a slight modification of Henry's operation, a modification which transforms it into a pure muscle-splitting and avascular operation, thereby removing the objections mentioned by Gask and Ross. The authors prefer the trans-abdominal approach for the lumbar sympathetic and an anterior approach according to their own technique for the cervical sympathetic.

This is a monograph which all surgeons and physicians interested in the surgery and clinical physiology of the sympathetic nervous system will read with pleasure and instruction.

Lessons on the Surgical Diseases of Childhood. William Rankin, M.B., Ch.B. 190 pages; illustrated. Price 21/- Alex MacDougall, 70 Mitchell St., Glasgow, 1934.

In this book the author emphasizes the clinical features of surgical diseases seen in children, illustrating these profusely with photographs, and touching lightly on the developmental, anatomical and pathological aspects. The descriptions of these conditions are short, which may be an advantage or a disadvantage, according to the reader's viewpoint. If we read the author's introduction we will see that he has adapted his style to his purpose, this resulting in a readable, worth-while book.

While it may be wise to be definite with students to avoid confusion, the inclusion of alternative methods of treatment would increase the value of certain chapters. In discussing empyema, for example, the author describes only rib-resection, merely mentioning that in streptococcal infection operation should be deferred. No mention is made of repeated aspiration or closed catheter drainage. It is true that these methods may require more attention and greater nursing facilities, but students should be familiar with them, because they sometimes result in lessened mortality, even if, from force of circumstances, they may not be suitable for certain hospitals, as the author intimates. In the chapter on hare-lip he states that "the stitching of a lip across a projecting alveolus in the hope that gentle pressure will restore normal outline is optimism—usually based on inexperience". Another school, however, has demonstrated that by *adequate* undercutting of *both* cheeks it is usually possible to get primary closure of the lip in these cases; that lip pressure alone approximates the alveolar edge, making wiring operations and forceful replacement unnecessary; that removal of a wedge of the septum is rarely required as a primary procedure; and that the premaxilla should never be removed because of the hideous deformity resulting later.

This book can be read with pleasure and profit, as summarizing the Glasgow teaching, with which after all we can find little fault. The author states his position frankly and stresses simple procedures. We appreciate the clearness of his presentation and the fact that he does not go into too great detail, nor repeat at length what may be found in general surgical text-books; he adheres firmly to a discussion of the special features of the surgical diseases seen in children.

The Nature and Treatment of Amentia. L. Pierce Clark, M.D., Chief of Advisory Board of Research, Letchworth Village for Feeble-minded. 306 pages. Price \$3.75. Baillière, Tindall and Cox, London; Macmillan Co., Toronto, 1933.

The author, whose untimely death has occurred since this publication, was well known for his many studies in epilepsy, for a long continued interest in the problems of mental deficiency, and for his contributions in the field of psycho-analysis. In this volume he has endeavoured to throw light on some of the problems relating to mental arrest through the use and application of psycho-analytic principles and knowledge. He also makes suggestions as to training-treatment of the feeble-minded, and as to the measures that may guide

us in shaping their mode of life to the best advantage.

The first 40 pages are given over to an elementary statement of present-day psycho-analytic concepts. Following this, the author proceeds to a study of clinical material, and concludes with chapters on the social behaviour of the ament and on the present and future outlook in the treatment of amentia. A glossary is appended which will be helpful to the medical man as well as to the general reader for whom it is intended.

This book opens up new viewpoints in a field which is much neglected, and wherein efforts at understanding would not seem promising to many. It may be that such studies will prove of more value in throwing light on the question of mental growth and development in general than on the practical problems of feeble-mindedness, but on either consideration they merit attention and study.

Allergy in General Practice. Samuel M. Feinberg, M.D., F.A.C.P., Assistant Professor of Medicine, Northwestern University Medical School. 339 pages, illustrated. Price \$4.50. Lea & Febiger, Phila., 1934.

No doubt, allergy still presents many obscure problems and these necessarily must be left largely to so-called allergists. But Dr. Feinberg rightly points out that the general practitioner can and should deal directly with a great deal of allergic disease himself. As might be expected, asthma forms the chief subject of the book; a smaller space is devoted to hay-fever, and the final chapter deals with other allergic disorders. There is a concluding section on case problems which is of great interest.

The book presents no new outlook, but it does deal with the subject very clearly and comprehensively. One particularly useful aspect is that it takes up the sources of various allergies. One has to be a walking encyclopædia of general knowledge to know all the disguises in which a comparatively few substances occur. Wheat flour, orris root, horse hair, nuts, wool, are all fairly common excitants of allergic symptoms. But how many men realize in what a number of sources wheat may be found, or any of the others. And yet treatment in connection with such sensitization is almost always concerned only with removal of these from the patient's environment. In this and other details it will be found that Dr. Feinberg's book contains much valuable information.

The Renaissance of Medicine in Italy. Arturo Castiglioni, M.D., Professor of History of Medicine at University of Padua. XIV and 91 pp. Price \$1.50. Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, 1934.

The author of this delightful study is a remarkable and probably unique figure. Not only is he Professor of the History of Medicine in the ancient University of Padua, but he is the head of the sanitary service of the Lloyd Triestino. Professor Henry Sigerist, who writes the introduction, remarks that he does not think there is any other navigation company in the world where the doctor's office resembles an Institute of the History of Medicine. Castiglioni was once asked how that queer combination came about. His answer was: "When you are a doctor the chief trouble arises from your fellow-doctors. I chose the two specialties in which you are sure to remain unbothered. The doctors I am dealing with are either dead and buried or else sailing in far-remote seas!"

Professor Castiglioni's book consists of three chapters embodying the Hideyo Noguchi Lectures for 1933 at Johns Hopkins University. In these few pages (we could wish they were more) we have a concise but stimulating account of that remarkable movement, the Renaissance, which, beginning in Italy, was destined to influence the thought and action of the whole world; against which background we find sketched the outlines of the development of medical and general scientific thought in Italy. Professor Castiglioni